

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.       **(original)**       A layered structure comprising
  - a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
  - a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition;
  - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.
2.       **(original)**       A layered structure according to claim 1, whereby said first intermediate layer comprises titanium and/or chromium.
3.       **(currently amended)**       A layered structure according to claim 1 or 2, whereby said structure further comprises at least a layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition on top of said diamond-like carbon layer.
4.       **(currently amended)**       A layered structure according to ~~any one~~ of the preceding claims claim 1, whereby said first intermediate layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~  
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said second intermediate layer has a thickness of  
0.01 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~  
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said diamond-like carbon layer has a thickness  
between 0.1 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~  
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said nanocomposite composition comprises in  
proportion to the sum of C, Si, and O in at% 40 to 90 % C, 5 to 40 % Si, and 5 to 25 % O.

8. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~  
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said second intermediate layer comprises a metal  
doped diamond-like nanocomposite composition.

9. (currently amended) A layered structure according to ~~any on~~  
~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said diamond-like carbon layer is doped with a  
metal.

10. (currently amended) A substrate covered at least partially with  
a layered structure according to ~~any on of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.

11. (original) The use of a substrate according to claim 10 for high  
shear and/or high impact applications.

**12. (currently amended)** A method to cover a substrate with a layered structure according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, whereby said method comprises the steps of

- providing a substrate;
- applying a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- applying a second intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition;
- applying a diamond-like carbon layer.